

2014 NATIONAL REPORT OF PARTIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

The deadline for submission of the reports is 1 May 2014. The reporting period is 15 June 2011 to 1 May 2014.

Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions. Parties are also requested to provide comprehensive answers, including, where appropriate, a summary of activities, information on factors limiting action and details of any assistance required.

Reporting format agreed by the Standing Committee at its 40th Meeting (Bonn, November 2012) for mandatory use by Parties, for reports submitted to the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) 2014.

The questions below combine elements of Resolution 4.1 (Party Reports) adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Nairobi, June 1994) and Resolution 6.4 (Strategic Plan for the Convention on Migratory Species 2000-2005), adopted by the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Cape Town, November 1999), the COP8 Strategic Plan 2006-2011 and Resolution 8.24 adopted by the Conference of the Parties (Nairobi 2005), as well as commitments arising from other operational Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties.

COP Resolution 9.4 adopted at Rome called upon the Secretariats and Parties of CMS Agreements to collaborate in the implementation and harmonization of online reporting implementation. The CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS) has been successfully implemented and used by AEWA in their last Meeting of the Parties (MOP 5, 2012) reporting cycle. CMS now offers the Convention's Parties to use the ORS for submitting their national reports for the COP11 (2014) reporting cycle.

Please enter here the name of your country

> THE GAMBIA

Which agency has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report?

> DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

I(b). Information about involved Authorities

Identify the ministry, agency/department or organization that is responsible for leading actions relating to Appendix I species

1- Birds

› Department of Parks and Wildlife Management

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE - Outline Protected Area and Biodiversity

2- Aquatic Mammals

› Department of Parks and Wildlife Management

3- Reptiles

› Department of Parks and Wildlife Management

4- Terrestrial Mammals

› Department of Parks and Wildlife Management

5- Fish

› DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCES

IV. National and Regional Priorities

1. What priority does your country assign to the conservation and, where applicable, sustainable use of migratory species in comparison to other biodiversity-related issues

High

2. Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan?

Yes

2.1. If Yes, please indicate and briefly describe the extent to which it addresses the following issues:

Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of the habitats of migratory species, including protected areas

> THERE HAS BEEN ANNUAL MANGROVE RESTORATION PROGRAMS AND TREE PLANTING FOR YEARS TO RESTORE DEGRADED HABITATS

Actions to prevent, reduce or control factors that are endangering or are likely to further endanger migratory species (e.g. alien invasive species or by-catch)

> THE ALIEN INVASIVE SPECIES ARE GIVEN CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS AREA FOR QUITE SOMETIME

Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration

> FORTUNATELY FOR THE GAMBIA THERE IS NO DAM IN THE COUNTRY OR SUCH OBSTACLES TO PREVENT MIGRATION

Research and monitoring of migratory species

> SOME OF THE PROTECTED AREAS ARE UNDERTAKING MONTHLY BIRD MONITORING AND NGOS SUCH AS THE WEST AFRICAN BIRD STUDY ASSOCIATION

Transboundary co-operation

> THE COUNTRY HAS ESTABLISHED TRANSBOUNDARY NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT AND CURRENTLY WORKING ON TRANSBOOUNDARY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

3. Does the conservation of migratory species currently feature in any other national or regional policies/plans (apart from CMS Agreements)

Yes

3.1. If Yes, please provide details:

> BIODIVERSITY WILDLIFE ACT 2003, FISHERIES ACT AND FORESTRY ACT, NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT ACT

3a. Do these policies/plans cover the following areas?

Exploitation of natural resources (e.g. fisheries, hunting, etc.)

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> HUNTING ZONES ARE IDENTIFIED AND SEASON LIKE WISE THE FISHING ZONES AND APPROPRIATE GEARS

Economic development

Yes

Land-use planning

No

If Yes, please provide details

> THERE ARE LAND USE PLANNING IN THE PROTECTED AREAS BUT THE NATIONAL PLANS ARE ON THE WAY TO DEVELOP ONE THAT WILL COVER NATION WIDE

Pollution control

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL REPILLANTS AND POLLUTION MATTERS AND REGULARLY MONITOR THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS TO QUALITY STANDARDS

Designation and development of protected areas

Yes

If Yes, please provide details

> BIODIVERSITY WILDLIFE ACT 2003 GIVES CLEAR MANDATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TO SET ASIDE PROTECTED AREAS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT DIFFERENT REGIMES

Development of ecological networks

No

4. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

> THESE HELP PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE COUNTRY AND LIVELIVEHOOD IMPROVEMENT

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

National Environment Agency - OUTLINE NATURAL RESOURCES LAWS AND POLICIES

V. Protected Areas

1. Are migratory species taken into account in the selection, establishment and management of protected areas in your country?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> IN ESTABLISHING PROTECTED AREAS HABITATS ARE CONSIDERED ESPECIALLY FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES. IN ALMOST ALL THE PROTECTED AREAS POSSESS WETLAND AND TRANSBOUNDARY MANAGEMENT IS IN PLACE BETWEEN NIUMI (THE GAMBIA) AND SALOUM (SENEGAL).

1a. Please identify the most important national sites for migratory species and their protection status:

> NIUMI NATIONAL PARK, TANJI BIRD RESERVE, BAO BOLON WETLAND RESERVE, TANBI WETLANDS NATIONAL PARK AND COMPLEX HAVE FORMAL PROTECTION STATUS.
 PIRANG SHRIMP FARM-PROTECTED BY PRIVATE INVESTOR
 ALLAHEIN EXCARVATION- PROTECTED BY NGO
 BRIKAMABA RICE FIED (JAHALLY PACHARR) -NO FORMAL PROTECTION
 DANKUNKU AND SAMBANG RICE FIELDS- NO PROTECTION

1b. Do these protected areas cover the following areas?

Terrestrial

Yes

If Yes, please provide details and include the amount of protected areas coverage and the number of protected areas

> THE COUNTRY HAS 8 PROTECTED AREAS REPRESENTING 6.8% OF THE LAND SURFACE. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE SPECIFIC BUT THIS FIGURE COVERS TERRISTERIAL AND INLAND AND COASTAL AND MARINE

1c. Identify the agency, department or organization responsible for leading on this action in your country:

> THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

2. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

> THE DESIGNATION OF PROTECTED AREAS HAVE PROVIDED BIO-RIGHT AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES. THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY DESIGNATING 10 NEW COMMUNITY PROTECETD AREAS AND WILL CERTAINLY INCREASE THE COVERAGE.

VIII. Global and National Importance of CMS

1. Have actions been taken by your country to increase national, regional and/or global awareness of the relevance of CMS and its global importance in the context of biodiversity conservation?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details:

> WE HAVE HAD SERIES OF PROJECTS FROM WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL, FIBA, GEF AMONG OTHERS THAT DEALS WITH CMS ACTIVITIES .

2. Identify the agency, department or organization responsible for leading on this action in your country:

> DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND WEST AFRICAN BIRD STUDY ASSOCIATION

3. Results - please describe the positive outcomes of any actions taken

> THE PUBLIC AND SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE INFORMED AND EDUCATED ABOUT THE BIODIVERSITY INCLUDING THEIR MIGRATORY PATTERN

IX. Mobilization of Resources

1. Has your country made financial resources available for conservation activities having direct benefits for migratory species in your country?

Yes

If Yes, please provide details (Indicate the migratory species that have benefited from these activities):

> THE KNOWN BRREDING SITE FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS FALLS WITHIN A PROTECTED AREA, AND SOME OF THE AREAS FOR MARINE TURTLES. THERE ARE AREAS OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS BUT BEING MONITORED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND NGOs

X. Implementation of COP Resolutions and Recommendations

Please provide information about measures undertaken by your country relating to recent Resolutions and Recommendations since the last Report. For your convenience please refer to the list of COP Resolutions and Recommendations listed below:

Resolutions

Bycatch (incl. Recommendation) (6.2 / 7.2 / 8.14 / 9.18 / 10.14)

> IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO FISHERMEN THAT ALL BY CATCH MUST BE RELEASED AT ALL COST AND THIS IS MONITORED BY FISHERIES OFFICERS AT LANDING SITES

Oil Pollution and Migratory Species (7.3)

> OIL POLLUTION IS NOT COMMON BUT REGULATED BY NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Migratory Species and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (8.27 / 10.22)

> THIS IS MONITORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK/ VETENARY SERVICES IN COLLABORATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Climate Change Impacts on Migratory Species (8.13 / 9.7 / 10.19)

> THIS IS DELT IN THE NATIONAL ADOPTATION PLAN OF ACTION (NAPA) BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Poisoning Migratory Birds (10.26)

> THIS IS NOT A CONCERN FOR THE COUNTRY

Impact Assessment and Migratory Species (7.2)

> ALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS MUST UNDERGO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE WILDLIFE POPULATION AND THEIR HABITATS

Sustainable Use (8.1)

> THIS IS HIGHLY ADVOCATED AND THE COUNTRY IS WORKING ON RATIFYING THE ACCESS TO BENEFIT SHARING (ABS)

Migratory Marine Species (9.9 / 10.15)

> ALL MIGRATORY MARINE SPECIES ARE MONITORED ESPECIALLY TURTLES, DOLPHINS, MANATEE, ETC OTHER MARINE SPECIES ARE COVER BY FISHERIES DEPARTMENT. HOWEVER, NO CURRENT PROJECT EXIT TO CONTINUE THE MONITORING OF MARINE SPECIES. NGO SUCH AS WABSA IS WORKING ON BIRD MONITORING AND IDENTIFICATION

Global Flyway Conservation (10.10)

> THE HABITATS FOR MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS ARE THREATENED BY CLIMATE CHANGE BUT PLANS ARE BEING DEVELOPED TO HALT THEM

Contribution of CMS in Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target (8.7)

> SERIES OF NATIONAL TARGETS HAVE BEEN DEVELOP THAT ADDRESS

Recommendations

Recommendation 7.6 - Improving the Conservation Status of the Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

> GAMBIA IS A MIGRATORY ROUTE FOR THEM, STRANDED LEATHERBACK ARE SOMETIMES ENCOUNTERED.

Recommendation 8.17 - Marine Turtles

> THEY ARE CONSIDERED FOR TOURISM POTENTIAL AND WILL BE MONITORED IN THE SUBSIQUENT PROJECTS

